

Steeple Talk

Volume 6, No. 8

October 7, 2012

News from the STA Mass communities:

7:15 Daily Mass: Fr. Gene Konkel died on September 14 after a brief period of ill health. Services were held at St. Patrick's Seminary on the 24th.

7:30 Sunday Mass: This early Mass is popular with folks who like to get a quick start on their Sunday activities.

8:45 Sunday Mass: Bishop Patrick J. McGrath will celebrate this Mass on October 14, with a reception following in the Thomas House.

10:30 Sunday Mass: After a refreshment dry spell, the 10:30 group has once again restored having refreshments after Mass. Attendance has been sparse. Charlotte Gross hopes that this will improve.

12:00 Sunday Mass: The St. Ann Choir sings Gregorian chant at this Mass each week.

12:15 Daily Mass: Downtown workers are frequently in attendance at this Mass.

Get ready for the altar reconstruction:

Judy Foley, chairperson of the STA Interior Committee, recently presented an update on the capital improvements at St. Thomas Aquinas church to the parish Building and Equipment Maintenance Committee.

Construction work for Phase I of the interior work is scheduled for the last two weeks of November and the first two weeks of December. Work will be confined to the sanctuary and will include reconfiguring the altar platform, installing new oak flooring on part of the altar platform, and some wiring under the platform.

Work will be scheduled to allow 7:45 am and 12:15 pm weekday Masses to be held. The sanctuary will be blocked

off and possibly a few of the front pews removed temporarily. Notice will be posted in the STA vestibule explaining continuance of Mass schedules.

The cost of this Phase I is estimated at \$68K but is expected to go slightly higher. Improvements will be funded by the new STA endowment fund; the fund is limited to expenditures on the STA church structure, possibly including the garage.

Judy will check on whether an ambry (a visible closet in the main church for storing sacred oils) can be incorporated into the plans. Presently, oils are stored in the sacristy, contrary to diocesan guidelines.

Phase II will take about week and involves floor sanding and lights. Phase III involves paint-



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

ing, re-staining existing oak floors slightly darker to match new flooring, and refinishing pews. The paint scheme is simple—with two whites for wall and trim respectively and two accent colors. These phases will be implemented in 2013, scheduled around weddings and liturgical seasons.

STA Site Committee plans:

Monthly Meeting:

2nd Thursday of the month

Next regular Site meeting:

Thursday, October 11, 2012
7:30 pm, Thomas House Library

Agenda (tentative):

- Kitchen improvements
- Library update
- AIV in basement hall

Monthly newsletter:

Sunday before 2nd Thursday

Editor: Kay Williams, 650-328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net

Farewell to Fr. Gene Konkel:

[Fr. Gene Konkel celebrated the 7:15 a.m. daily Mass at least once a week for the past two years.]



After a short illness, Fr. Gene Konkel died at his home at St. Patrick Seminary on September 14, 2012. He was 81 years of age. Father was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and grew up there with his sister Elynor "Dolly," and his brother, Richard, who have both preceded him in death. He is survived by his sis-

ter-in-law, Caroline Konkel, and several nephews and nieces.

Ordained for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in 1957, Fr. Gene held graduate degrees from Catholic University and from Marquette, and was admitted into the Society of St. Sulpice in 1959. Father Gene taught at seminaries in Baltimore, Louisville, Kentucky, Honolulu, and Saint Joseph College in Mountain View. Fr.

Gene was best known, however, for his ministry for more than 35 years as spiritual director at St. Patrick Seminary, and for his connection to the Vatican II Institute in Menlo Park, where he served as its Director from July 1, 1976, until June 30, 2002. He touched the lives of countless people and will be fondly remembered for his kindness, generosity, wisdom and humor.

**NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. THOMAS
AQUINAS CHURCH SITE COMMITTEE**

751 Waverley Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301

St. Thomas Aquinas Site Committee:

Ted Baer	Bob Barron	Helen Baumann
Philip Boudart	Lorraine Dabney	Judy Foley
Anna Jaklitsch	Bill Mahrt	Bob March
Mike McMahon	Bea Peterson	Patti Robison
Mario Veloro	Kay Williams	and occasional others

Mission Statement: The Site Committee for St. Thomas Aquinas Church works to encourage community-building within our six individual Mass communities, among our Mass communities, and within the larger parish community. We do this by enhancing our liturgies, exercising responsible stewardship of our facilities, and working to improve communications at all levels of our parish community.

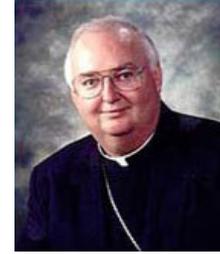
Site committee meetings are (usually) held the 2nd Thursday of the month in the Library of the Thomas House. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, send questions or suggestions to Kay Williams, 328-2781, kaywill@pacbell.net.

Parish pathways:

Tuesday, October 9: *You Make the Choice*; the pros and cons of the November ballot propositions:

The Human Concerns Committee has arranged this opportunity for our parish to hear from the League of Women Voters. The various propositions often seem confusing. Don't miss this chance to find out what they really mean. Hear both sides of the questions and ask your own. Gather from 7:00 pm until 8:30 at Saint Albert the Great Hospitality Room; refreshments will be served.

Sunday, October 14: Bishop Patrick McGrath will be celebrating the Eucharist with the Thomas Merton Center for Catholic Spiritual Development at the 8:45 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.



Bishop McGrath

This coincides with the 50th anniversary of the start of the Second Vatican Council, which will

be the focus of the discussion with Bishop McGrath at the reception following the Mass in the Thomas House basement hall. All are welcome.

Sunday, October 21: Nicole Sault will talk about her recent sojourn with Caravan for Peace, during which she spent over a week as interpreter with 60 Mexican and American peace organizers participating in a bus caravan between San Diego and Washington, D.C. Come to St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center at 4:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

From the church steps:

Latin Class:

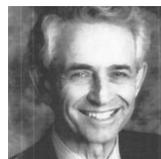
The Latin circle is now meeting on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm in the Thomas House basement hall, due to scheduling conflicts with Wednesdays. The group continues to read through the Propers, Collect and Preface for the following two Sundays at each get-together, and last time they started reading excerpts from *The Confessions of St. Augustine* as well, which the group plans to continue. Kevin Rossiter, who attends the 12:00 p.m. Sunday Mass, is the Latin "professor." If you are interested in participating, please contact Kevin at kevin.rossiter at gmail.com.

Memorial service for George Locke October 13:

George Locke passed away on September 8 after a long illness. His wife Maureen is planning a memorial service for George with the help of the Merton Cen-

ter Liturgy Committee, of which Maureen is a member, to be held on Saturday, October 13, 9:30 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. A reception will follow at St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center.

**Spirituality Tuesday Assembly Oct. 16:
The Jewish Understanding of Jesus**
St. Albert the Great Hospitality Center,
7:00 –8:30 p.m.



Rabbi Shelley Waldenberg returns to share a Jewish perspective on Jesus, our Messiah. Haven't we all wondered why Jesus was not recognized for

who he was then, and is for us today? Hear the answers to the following:

- Who is the historical Jesus through Jewish eyes?
- Why do the Gospels and much of Christian history depict the Jews as demanding the death of Jesus and the gen-

erational blood-guilt for his execution?

- What is the common ground of Jews and Christians with regard to Jesus in our own times?

Rabbi Waldenberg is a warm and engaging speaker. He is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Isaiah in Lafayette, California, where he served as Senior Rabbi for 19 years. After ordination at the Hebrew Union College, he served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Army, and then taught at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Since retiring, he has been a senior lecturer in Religious Studies at Holy Names University and Principle Educator of the Catholic-Jewish Educational Enrichment Program of the American Jewish Committee, lecturing at Catholic High Schools throughout the Bay Area, seeking bridges of understanding and trust between our faith communities.